

Message Text

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SUBJECT: ITALIAN PRESS REPORTING OF GOLFARI TRIP TO US

REF A. WRIGHT-SWIHART TELCON 9/20, B. STATE 230932, C. MILAN 1960
ET AL.

1. LOMBARDY REGIONAL PRESIDENT GOLFARI'S TRIP TO US TO MEET
WITH AMERICAN SCIENTISTS ON SEVESO PROBLEM RECEIVED MENTION
IN CORRIERE DELLA SERA, GIORNO, GIORNALE, AND REPUBBLICA, ALL
OF SEPTEMBER 19. TITLES OF ALL FOUR ARTICLES CONCERNED FRCT
THAT GOLFARI'S ENCOUNTERS WITH AMERICAN EXPERTS TURNED UP NO
ANTIDOTE FOR POISONOUS GAS RELEASED FROM ICMESA PLANT.

2. TWO PAPERS, CORRIERE AND REPUBBLICA, USED ANSA AND AGI
PRESS SERVICE REPORTS ON GOLFARI PRESS CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK.
ACCORDING TO REPORTS, GOLFARI, BESIDES ASSURING REPORTERS THAT
AMERICAN SCIENTISTS HAVE NO ANTIDOTE FOR TCDD, DENIED
THAT US MILITARY HAS SUCH ANTIDOTE EITHER. ASKED WHETHER
HE HAD CONTACTED MILITARY EXPERTS, GOLFARI IS SAID TO
HAVE REPLIED THAT HE HAD BEEN ASSURED BY DEPARTMENT OF
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STATE EXPERTS THAT US MILITARY HAS NO REMEDY FOR DIOXIN.

GOLFARI REPORTEDLY EMPHASIZED THAT HE HAD MET WITH AMERICAN SCIENTISTS OF HIGHEST CALIBER AND CALLED THIS GUARANTEE OF SOUNDNESS OF THEIR CONTENTION THAT NO ANTIDOTE EXISTED.

3. BOTH GIORNO AND GIORNALE COVERED GOLFARI'S PRESS CONFERENCE WITH THEIR OWN CORRESPONDENTS. GIORNO, BESIDES REPORTING GIST OF PRESS SERVICE ARTICLE, SAID THAT PROF. BARRY COMMONER, WHO WAS RECENTLY IN ITALY AND ALLEGEDLY STATED THAT IF AN ANTIDOTE EXISTED THE AMERICANS HAD THE DUTY TO GIVE IT TO THE LOMBARDY REGIONAL AUTHORITIES, HAS NOW EMPHASIZED THAT HE WAS STATING SUPPOSITION AND NOT DECLARING THAT ANTIDOTE EXISTED. GIORNO ALSO REPORTS PROF. GARATTINI'S REPLY TO REPORTER WHO ASKED WHETHER THERE HAD BEEN CONTACTS WITH VIETNAMESE POLITICAL AND SCIENTIFIC AUTHORITIES ON PROBLEM. GARATTINI REPORTEDLY SAID THAT VIETNAMESE AND SEVESO PROBLEMS ARE DIFFERENT BECAUSE DIOXIN IS ONLY MINIMAL PART OF DEFOLIANTS USED IN VIETNAM.

HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT "DATA REQUESTED AND OBTAINED FROM VIETNAM UNTIL NOW ARE UNRELIABLE AND VIETNAMESE SCIENTISTS THEMSELVES USE THEM AS SIMPLY WORKING HYPOTHESIS. FOR EXAMPLE, STATEMENT OF SCIENTIST FROM HANOI THAT IN PERIOD 1970-1975 HE NOTED NUMBER OF TUMORS HAD QUADRUPLED AS COMPARED WITH 1960 TO 1965 COULD ALSO BE DUE TO FACT THAT FOUR TIMES NUMBER OF PATIENTS OF 1970-1965 PERIOD HEARD ABOUT HIS CLINIC AND DECIDED TO VISIT IT. BESIDES, DEFOLIANTS WERE USED ABOVE ALL IN SOUTH VIETNAM AND VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES WHO HAVE SPOKEN ON THIS QUESTION HAVE DEALT WITH CONTAMINATION ABOVE ALL IN NORTH VIETNAM."

GIORNO ARTICLE ENDS BY SAYING "MISSION HAS RETURNED TO ITALY CONVINCED THAT DECONTAMINATION AND RECOVERY OF SEVESO AREA WILL BE LONG AND DIFFICULT ROAD AND (THEY ARE) OPEN TO ANY OTHER SUGGESTIONS ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD WHICH SEEM TO HAVE SCIENTIFIC MERIT."

4. GIORNALE ARTICLE PUT EMPHASIS ON GOLFARI'S DECLARATIONS THAT HE HAS LOOKED IN VAIN FOR ANTIDOTE IN AMERICAN AND IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NOW CONVINCED IT IS NON-EXISTENT, DESPITE RUMORS TO CONTRARY. ARTICLE ALSO QUOTED AMPLY FROM DEPARTMENT'S PRESS STATEMENT (REF C). ARTICLE ALSO MENTIONED PROF. BARRY COMMONER'S ALLEGED DENIAL THAT HE HAD SAID AMERICA HAD ANTIDOTE.

5. COMMENT. ITALIAN PRESS PLAY OF GOLFARI MISSION WAS CONSTRUCTIVE FROM HIS POINT OF VIEW AND OURS. HE WAS PORTRAYED AS HAVING CONSULTED WORLD'S GREATEST EXPERTS ON

DIOXIN CONTAMINATION AND HAVING LAID TO REST RUMOR THAT
ANTIDOTE EXISTED TO WHICH ITALIANS DO NOT HAVE ACCESS.
FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW, PROF. GARATTINI'S COMMENTS ON
SEVESO/VIETNAM COMPARISON ARE ESPECIALLY WELCOME.FINA

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